UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/165
2 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 9

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 26 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights

With reference to document E/CN.4/2002/151, dated 22 March 2002, circulated by the delegation of Azerbaijan under agenda item 9 of the present session of the Commission on Human Rights, I regret to witness yet another attempt of the delegation of Azerbaijan to offer this session a grossly distorted and inadequate information regarding the issue of Nagorno Karabagh.

The attempts of the delegation of Azerbaijan to mislead this session are particularly unacceptable at a time when the parties concerned and the co-Chairs of the Minsk Group have in the course of the past few years been stepping up their efforts to bring about a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The consistent denial by the authorities of Azerbaijan to allow the people of Nagorno Karabagh to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination has been the root cause of the sufferings and destitution of the people of the region. The delegation of Azerbaijan should be aware of the mass pogroms, killings and deportations of the Armenian population in Azerbaijan, of the deplorable crimes against Armenians in Baku, Sumgait, Kirovabad and other towns and villages of Azerbaijan.

GE.02-12138 (E) 030402

The power struggle within Azerbaijan at the time the delegation of Azerbaijan refers to in the above document added considerable problems to the issue of Nagorno Karabagh. In an interview with Ms. Dana Mazalova, a Czech journalist, published in Nezavisimaya Gazeta on 2 April 1992, Mr. Ayaz Mutalibov, former President of Azerbaijan, made the following comments and observations: "... the militia of the Azerbaijani National Front (ANF) actively obstructed and actually prevented the evacuation of the local civilian population from the zone of military operations through the mountain passages specially left open by Karabagh Armenians". In its September 1992 report the Helsinki Watch non-governmental organization wrote that: "An Azerbaijani woman is confirming that Armenians had advised the Azerbaijani civilian population of Khojalu to leave the town with white flags raised .... The Azerbaijani militia shot those who attempted to flee". These and numerous other facts attest to the aim of the rival political forces in Azerbaijan to exploit the events in Khojalu in order to achieve their narrow goals of seizing power in Baku. As a result, they achieved a major deception of their own people.

I request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 9.

(Signed): Zorab MNATSAKANIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative